



Michigan Legislature

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Contact: Sen. Mike Prusi or Rep. Rich Brown
Phone: 517-373-7840 or 517-373-0850
Toll Free: 866-305-2038 or 866-663-4031

FINLANDIA TO RECEIVE \$360,000 GRANT FROM MEDC

Sen. Prusi and Rep. Brown applaud efforts to diversify U.P. economy

LANSING – State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) and Representative Rich Brown (D-Bessemer) today expressed their thanks to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and Granholm Administration for their support of Finlandia University. Under a \$360,000 Community Development Block Grant, through the MEDC, Finlandia will be able to proceed with plans to establish a business incubator. The incubator will focus on those companies based in product design and compliment the recent MTEC SmartZone incubator for high-tech companies located in Hancock.

“It is important for the U.P. to diversify its economy,” Sen. Prusi said. “I am pleased that the MEDC and Granholm Administration recognize Finlandia’s role in accomplishing that goal.”

The incubator at Finlandia will create 20 staff positions and 30-40 positions created by incubated businesses during the first several years of operation. Additionally, the incubator will house many services necessary to the economic development of the community, including a Biz Resource Center, a SCORE chapter, small business training, and referrals to third-party service providers. Finlandia’s School of Business will also provide faculty and students for various consulting, intern, and employment roles.

“I am glad that the Copper Country is being recognized by the MEDC as an ideal place to nurture new businesses,” Rep. Brown said. “This is a testament to our world-class workforce.”

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Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.

Rich Brown sits on the House Appropriations Committee. He represents the 110th House District, which includes seven counties in the Western Upper Peninsula.